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27 October 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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[Redacted box]

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS


1. Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)



25X1

3. Dominican Republic: Military threat against provisional government lessens. (Page 5)

4. Brazil: Branco pressing congress for more government authority. (Page 7)

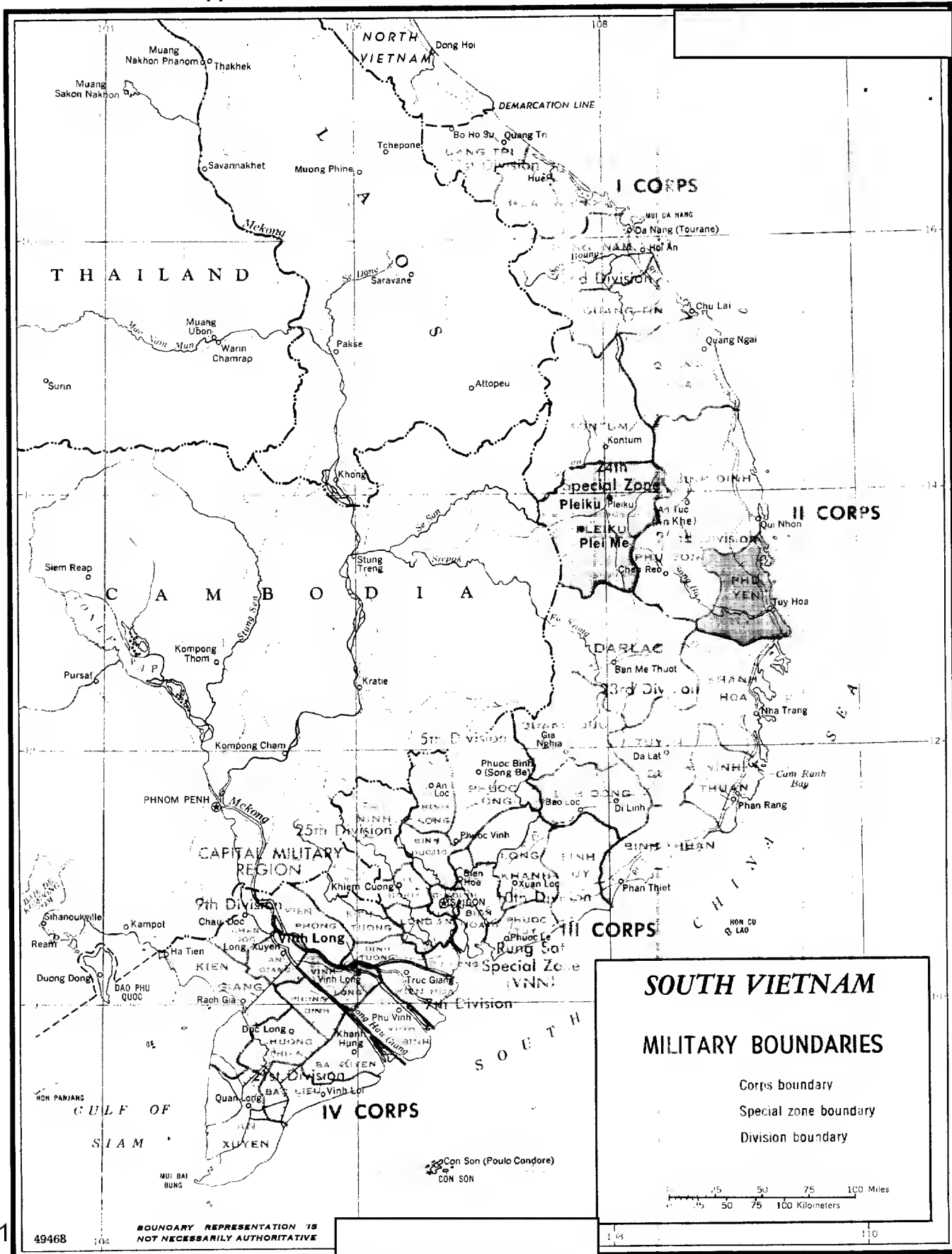
5. Notes:  Communist China - Canada; Afro-Asian Conference; Sudan; USSR-Algeria. (Page 8)

25X1



25X1

25X1



25X1

25X1

27 Oct 65 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

27 October 1965

*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Viet Cong forces launched another early morning mortar and recoilless rifle bombardment yesterday against the Vietnamese Special Forces camp at Plei Me, 25 miles south of Pleiku town. A firefight was also reported southwest of the post, where an entrenched Communist unit reportedly wounded five US army personnel.

Cumulative enemy losses now are estimated to be 458 killed (158 by body count) and 112 weapons captured. Government forces during the eight days of fighting have sustained casualties of 80 killed (12 US), 166 wounded (10 US), and 34 missing.

Elsewhere, government forces conducting a search operation in Phu Yen Province yesterday caught the Viet Cong in the open and killed 148 (by body count). An additional 400 Viet Cong are estimated to have been killed by air strikes supporting the operation.

In the delta region south of Saigon, regimental strength Vietnamese forces now are conducting a search operation in response to an enemy attack last weekend on a government camp several miles northwest of the provincial capital of Vinh Long. The operation thus far has resulted in government casualties of three killed and 25 wounded, as against enemy losses of one killed. The Viet Cong attack on 23 October had resulted in 51 government casualties and 45 weapons lost.

25X1

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Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

*Dominican Republic: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The threat of a military move to topple the provisional government has lessened with the restoration of order in the capital.

The dilemma of restoring order to Santo Domingo without the use of Dominican troops was resolved by moving a strong Inter-American Peace Force (IAPF) contingent into the city on 25 October. The IAPF's move, which was not Garcia Godoy's idea but had his approval, has eliminated the former rebel stronghold and now affords the ineffective disarmament commissions the necessary military support.

[Garcia Godoy reiterated to the OAS committee yesterday that the present Dominican military leaders must be replaced if his government is to survive. According to Ambassador Bunker, the president is now attempting to gain support for a plan that links the removal of the military leaders with the departure from the country of the four leading rebel officers: Caamano, Montes Arache, Lachapelle, and Lora Fernandez. The officers mentioned by Garcia Godoy as possible replacements to the present military chiefs, however, were unacceptable to the OAS committee.]

Rivera Caminero and his service chiefs, meanwhile, remain under pressure from civilian rightist elements and at least some of their own officers, to take action against Garcia Godoy and "save the country from Communism." The military leaders, although distrustful of the president's motives and offended by his cavalier treatment of them, have again told the US defense attachés that they would step down when the rebel situation had been cleared up and the government was on the road to elections.

The IAPF preserves an uneasy truce in the capital, but the atmosphere in the provinces is worsening.

27 Oct 65

5

25X1

The head of Juan Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party in Puerto Plata province has reportedly been killed, making a total of at least three leftwing politicians assassinated in the last few days.

25X1

27 Oct 65

6

25X1

*Brazil: President Castello Branco is bringing heavy pressure on the Brazilian Congress to approve, in the next day or so, special measures that would strengthen the government's power.

Among the proposed measures are constitutional amendments giving the regime greater authority to intervene directly in the states and allowing military courts to try civilians for "crimes against national security."

Castello Branco's primary motive in pushing for these additional powers is to mollify the increasing number of military leaders who have been criticizing him for his alleged laxity toward subversion and political corruption. The military's anxiety stems largely from recent election victories by former president Kubitschek's Social Democratic Party and Kubitschek's sudden return from exile earlier this month.

In view of the apparent unrest within the armed forces, there is a growing possibility that Castello Branco would consider ruling by decree or taking other drastic steps if congress refuses to approve his proposals. War Minister Costa e Silva and other top leaders have warned congress of possible serious consequences if the measures are defeated.

25X1

27 Oct 65

7

25X1

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NOTES

25X1

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Communist China - Canada: In addition to China's recently concluded six-million-ton three-year grain contract with Canada, Peking is negotiating grain deals with Australia and Argentina. Contracts for sizable quantities from these suppliers for delivery in 1966 will probably be signed soon. Total Chinese grain purchases for next year, including an expected two million tons from Canada, will probably amount to approximately six million tons, worth over \$400 million. China's purchases have averaged about this quantity annually for the last several years. [Redacted]

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Afro-Asian Conference: The Algerians apparently still hope to convene the Afro-Asian conference as scheduled on 5 November. They claim to have obtained pledges to attend from 41 countries, despite adamant Chinese opposition to the meeting. The foreign ministers convene in Algiers tomorrow, and could still recommend that the heads-of-state meeting be postponed. According to press reports, the Chinese have stated that, if the conference is convened as scheduled they will not attend. [Redacted]

25X1

27 Oct 65

8

25X1

Sudan: The shaky coalition government evidently will be shored up for the time being by an agreement between its two partners, the generally conservative Umma party and the urban National Union Party (NUP).

[redacted] repre-
sentatives of the Umma agreed on 24 October to force the resignation of the Umma prime minister, Mohammed Mahjoub. Mahjoub's insistence that he outranked the president of the NUP, who is serving as head of Sudan's presidency council, triggered the NUP's announcement last week that its ministers would leave the cabinet.

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[redacted]
/ *USSR-Algeria: Several items of late-model military equipment--rocket launchers, armored cars, and artillery--were observed being unloaded from a Soviet ship in Algiers harbor on 25-26 October. Some of this materiel will probably appear in the 1 November revolutionary day parade in Algiers. This is the third shipload of military materiel, in addition to a sub-chaser, to arrive in recent weeks. Although no surface-to-air missiles have been identified in these shipments, they are expected to appear in Algeria soon.

25X1

25X1

27 Oct 65

9

25X1

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The Special Assistant for National Security Affairs

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The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council

The Director of Intelligence and Research

The Treasury Department

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Under Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of Defense

The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

The Assistant Secretary of Defense

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Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy

Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Chief of Staff, United States Army

Commandant, United States Marine Corps

U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

Commander in Chief, Atlantic

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The Director, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

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The United States Information Agency

The Director

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